Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

Yes. This has been a general phenomenon.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

277. Whether the scale of salary paid to the Government servants is almost the same as it was in the olden days?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

No. It has been improved from time to time, as a comparison of the budget statements of 1094 and 1101 will testify.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

278. (a) Whether the Government are aware that there is acute distress prevailing among the low-paid servants of the Government, i. e., among officers drawing a salary of Rs. 60 and below?

(b) Whether there have been petitions after petitions from those affected, praying for such increase in their salaries, as to make both ends meet? If so, whether a thorough enquiry was made about it, and necessary remedies provided for by the Government? If not, why?

(c) Whether it is not a fact that several Heads of Departments themselves have realised this almost destitute state of their subordinates under their employ, on account of scanty salary now paid by the Government, and strongly recommended to the Government for increase, and submitted schemes long ago for the same?

(d) If so, what action has been taken by the Government thereon, and if not, why?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

(a) Yes. Government are aware of a certain amount of distress among the menials and low-paid clerks.

(b) There have been occasional representations. The Government considered the question, and their conclusions are contained in the following extract from the D. P., C. No. 273/99, dated 10th December 1923 (*Land Revenue*).

"The question of introducing the time scale among clerks and menials of the Revenue Department equally with those of other departments is too wide a subject to be taken up for consideration for the present, and must lie over until the material prospects of the State are considerably improved."

(c) There have been representations.

(d) Vide answer to (b) above. Relief has, however, been afforded in certain cases.

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